

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC

March 2, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ken Harris, WA8LLM/Unit 251, President. There were 29 members and guests present at the meeting.

Minutes from the February 3, 2004 meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 repeater system. Ken said the noise on 147.255 MHz seems to have disappeared. He hasn't heard it for awhile. Maybe someone found their problem and got it fixed. He said now that Spring is just around the corner, and he will be able to do two main things on the repeater, one is get the audio quality better by changing a capacitors coming out of the UHF Link Receivers, and putting the UHF antenna notch filter, built by Earl Hulce, KB8HRG, on the UHF Link Receivers.

Ken, WA8LLM, said there may be ARRL Level One ARRL Emergency Communications Course testing at the Charleston Hamfest, but it's not firm yet. Ken's going to E-Mail the ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator and tell him there are several people that are wanting to take the test. Ken also found out that you don't have to have any level of ARRL Emergency Communications to be able to administer the exams. He was told that any ARRL Volunteer FCC Examiner can administer the exams. The exams can be held the same day as the FCC VE Exams, but not at the same time. Ken will contact the ARRL to found out for sure and the procedures. If there is testing at Charleston there may not be any cost to take the test, but if we do it ourselves we may have to pay the 10 dollars to administer the exams. It was suggested the organization pay the 10 dollars for those taking the test. We will discuss it further at the April WCEC meeting after we found out about the Charleston Hamfest. We may have a one day course after the Charleston Hamfest before our next VE test session.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he has talked to Craig at Mountwood Park about the shelter for the BINGO games at Volcano Days. Craig said the Major Project committee hasn't got to the shelter discussion yet, they're still discussing other projects. Craig said that he is in favor of the shelter. Ken will check with Craig before the next meeting.

Denise, KC8TUF, said she didn't have any new medical cards made up. Anyone else who would like to have a medical card to put with their ID Card, needs to fill out a work sheet and give it to Denise.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he hasn't heard from Roger Bibbee of any other CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) courses being held. Roger did teach a course on Thursday and Friday last week, but it was just for the Bureau of Public Debt.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he is still getting checks in from those who have bought the Yaesu FT-1500 radios.

There was a discussion about the disaster drill held on February 16th. The drill went pretty well even though WCEC wasn't directly involved. Some of the WCEC members, Mike, KC8SIP; Jeff, KC8EEQ; Ken, KB8QPW; Ray, KC8RUJ; Rick, KC8VLM; Roger, KB8QPX; set up Packet Stations within the Belpre VFD Training Center and practiced using Packet Radio, and the ARES/Data (FINDER) system. Ken, WA8LLM, said that he used the information from the Belpre exercise on the MARS (Military Affiliated Radio System) nets that day, for a MARS exercise, and it was used on the rest of the nets which lasted all week. Ken, KB8QPW, who was doing the Packet training, said they didn't have any major problems with the exercise, except for the dead batteries in the Packet stations. The news paper said there was communications problems, but Mike, KC8SIP, said the communication problems was not radio problems, but person-to-person communications. Ken, WA8LLM, explained a little about the MARS system.

There was a reminder about the Charleston Hamfest on March 20th.

Rick, KC8VLM, wanted to know if we had heard anything about the BINGO games for the West Virginia Interstate Fair which they are trying to start on a weekly, or monthly basis. Ken, WA8LLM, said that he hasn't heard back from Mike, the Fair president.

NEW BUSINESS

There will be W5YI testing on April 10th, at 6:00 pm at the E-911 center.

The Multiple Sclerosis 150, or better know as the MS 150, will be moved back to the Parkersburg area. The event will be held September 11th

and 12th. It's been several years since it was in the Parkersburg area. Ken, WA8LLM, has a telephone number of a contact and he will try to contact them to see about communications. They will be using the Holiday Inn in Parkersburg as their base of operations. They will be using Mountwood Park to have their lunches, and they will be using some of the Rails-To-Trails for a part of their ride. Ken will find out the route it will be taking and then get hold of other clubs to help provide the communications.

Challenge At Mountwood will be held April 17th and 18th. There will be a bike ride around the course on the 17th and the race will be held on the 18th. Communicators will be needed on the 18th. This year the communications personnel should take extra water for the racers, even though it's not our responsibility. It seems like every year the racers are needing water between the water stops. A short discussion followed.

Jeff, KC8EEQ, said that Artsbridge will be holding their activity at WVU at Parkersburg, on May 26. Ruby Rubble should be getting in contact with us, if she doesn't, at least we know the date.

There will be an CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) instructors course held at the 911 Center on March 13th and 14th. Those who have taken the regular CERT course can take the instructors course to become instructors and teach the course. If you're interested, you need to contact Roger Bibbee. Ken, WA8LLM, will let the members know of any regular CERT classes that will be coming up when he finds out.

Ken, WA8LLM, read a letter that he and Ken, KB8QPW, got from the Department of Highways about the Safety Break. The DOH has set new hours for the Safety Breaks. Sam, N8SVX doesn't know if he got his letter or not. The new hours show there is a minimum of 30 hours and a maximum of 54 hours the Safety Breaks can be operated. We will just have to wait to see if we get any of the breaks, and then make up our schedule accordingly. Ken said that he will call the DOH and ask about Thanksgiving which is a long weekend.

Dot, KC8HAI, announced the Athens Hamfest will be held on April 25, 2004 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Admission is \$5.00.

Jeff, KC8EEQ, announced the Jackson County Hamfest will be held on May 2nd, in Ripley.

Judy, N8UFQ, announced the Parkersburg Half Marathon, which will be held on August 21, 2004.

The Parkersburg Homecoming BINGO games will be held August 20, 21, 22, 2004.

Dave, KC8VLK, announced a Pancake Breakfast at the Lubeck Fire Station on March 20, 2004.

Mike, KC8SIP, asked if there was going to be an airshow this year. Ken, WA8LLM, said that he would contact Greg Smith and see if there is any plans to have an airshow this year.

It was brought up for discussion about Field Day. The group decided to hold Field Day at the same location as last year. Field Day this year will be held on June 26, and 27.

There will be a River Sweep activity which may be held on June 19, 2004, the officials are not for sure of the date yet.

The Mountain Classic 10K Road Run which was held at the Parkersburg City Park, has been cancelled this year.

Jenny, KC8UYB, asked if there will be a Children's Bike Rodeo this year. Ken, WA8LLM, said that Don Williams, N8NUS, asked him if the Canopies, Tables, Chairs, and PA System would be available on May 1st. Ken told Don, he wasn't for sure, since we never heard from them after the rodeo last year. We usually get a donation, but we didn't get it last year. We will just have to wait until one of the officials contact us. Followed by a short discussion.

The High School Cross Country races will be held on September 18th and October 30th.

The organization talked about the Triathlon sponsored by Adventure Pursuit. It was so bad last year that we are not sure we are going to get involved in it.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Dot Harris KC8HAI/Unit 258, Danni Jones KC8VSR/Unit 260, Duane Jones N8LDM/Unit ES-2, Judy Peterson N8UFQ/Unit 255, Anna Hendershot, KC8JWW/Unit 263, Lisa Hendershot KB8UER/Unit 270, Ken Riffle

KB8QPW/Unit 268, Mike Davis KC8SIP/Unit 279, Pam Davis KC8VPN/Unit 281,
Sam Mercer N8SVX/Unit 256, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282, Roger McGee
KB8QPX/Unit 271, David Stevens KC8VLK/Unit 274, Krista Mills
KC8VLJ/Unit 295, Tricia Magyarosi KC8VLI/Unit 294, Denise Magyarosi-
Mills KC8TUF/Unit 290, Terry Mills KC8TUE/Unit 289, Cathy Wotring
KC8DJJ/Unit 257, Kevin Harris KC8OXY/Unit 253, Addie Boyles, Brad
Carabine KC8TYU/Unit 287, Carol Johnson KC8TUD/Unit 293, Ray Johnson
KC8RUJ/Unit 292, Ray Bodie N8TWV/Unit 278, Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251,
Jennifer Greene KC8UYB/Unit 264, Rick Greene KC8VLM/Unit 265, Kyle
Riser, Ryan Riser